

FIXING THE PUBLIC LINKS.

THE COURSE AT VAN CORTLANDT PARK IN CONDITION FOR PLAY.**New Soda for the Putting Greens—Leeds Promises to Make a Strong Bid for the Championship—Interesting Matches Abroad—J. H. Taylor Defeats J. Bratt.**

To the gratification of the golfers, the Park Commissioners had a gang of men at work last week on the public links, at Van Cortlandt Park, and the course is now in good condition for play.

The base places on the putting greens have been raised, and the cups are now in shape.

Only a stopper is needed to make the turf strong and thick.

However, unless a green keeper is appointed, it should be the duty of the gardener to move the cups to different parts of the putting greens, so that when the new holes begin to be worn, this is done at all the clubs, and is called "resting" the greens.

It is not necessary to have the hole in the exact centre of the putting greens, so that when the cups are lifted the job of transferring them is done neatly. The old holes must be filled and sodded whenever a new one is marked out. If this is done on an off day, say on Friday morning, the links will be in order for the public on Saturday.

The Van Cortlandt Links will be a favorite practice ground for the players who intend to keep on playing the game during their visits to the country later on, and from now until the snow falls the "stay-at-home" players will be regular visitors to the course. Nearly as many women as men were patrons of the links last season.

Under the rules of the game, all the golfers who do not go, should be allowed to start on a round in the order of arrival at the course.

This is this democratic system which adapts the game as an especially suitable recreation in a public park.

At San Francisco a golf course has been laid out in Presidio Park, and movements to have public links are under way in Brooklyn and Philadelphia.

Judging from his form at Lakewood, many golfers will make a bid for the championship of Shinnecock. When in good play Leeds seems as high class as C. B. MacIntosh, professional amateur champion, but he likes an eight-hole course, which is a thirty-six-hole struggle. When play becomes a bore and Leeds begins to weary, his golf, like the best tennis, is either "very good" or "horrid."

James A. Tyng is also a possible champion, and cool nerves backed by a spirit of competition make him a favorite.

Lewis C. Ledyard's schooner Mountauk has been sold to Capt. Earl, and Capt. Thompson expects her to go into commission about the middle of May.

James Penleton of Springfield has purchased the sloops for many years one of the crack boats of the New Haven Club, and will hereafter sail from Stonington. She will be a good boat.

New Haven had the Marguerite built at Stamford, where her hulls and engine are being overhauled preparatory to beginning the season.

The women's national championships occur during this week, as well as most of the other State championships.

The Hoboken Valley officers, therefore, decided to hold their tournament two weeks earlier, transferring it to June 3 and following days, which have not been claimed by any other club as yet.

The State championship will be thrown open to all comers, and Champion Frederick N. Jessup of Orange will probably find his hands full in defense of his title and challenge cup.

The Hoboken Valley has been instrumental in establishing a New Jersey championship for women, and the first tournament for the club will be held on June 17.

James A. Tyng will be early in commission, and will be in the lead.

The sloop Yacht of the N. Y. Y. C. is at Morgan's yard, where she is undergoing extensive alterations. She was hauled out last fall, and since then has been "idle."

The schooner Yacht of the N. Y. C. is being overhauled in Shaw's Cove under the direction of Capt. Allen, her sailing master.

She will be ready to sail from New Haven about May 20.

The steamer Maria of the N. Y. Y. C., formerly A. J. Drexel's Marguerite, will be early in commission, and will be in the lead.

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